

The Energy and Technology Committee
Public Hearing, March 20th, 2012
Testimony of Sheryl N. Hack, Broad Brook, CT

Good afternoon Senator Fonfara, Representative Nardello, Senator Duff, Representative Reed, and Ranking Members Senator Witkos and Representative Reed.

I'm Sheryl Hack, Executive Director of Connecticut Landmarks. Connecticut Landmarks is a state-wide heritage organization which owns twelve historic properties in Connecticut, nine of which are operated as historic site museums. Our historic properties are in Coventry, Hartford, Wethersfield, Suffield, New London, Bethlehem, Stonington and East Haddam.

I'd like to thank the Committee for raising the legislation, which I am here to speak in support of.

In 2010, Connecticut Landmarks installed a closed loop geothermal system at our Butler-McCook property on Main Street in Hartford. The purpose of this system was to reduce and stabilize our long-term energy costs and usage. However, as a result of CL&P's demand charge rate structure, we have seen our kilowatt hour cost increase 31.4% and, despite our purchase of the most energy efficient equipment, have seen our overall energy costs increase to the point that it is unaffordable to operate the system.

The geothermal system we installed is a property-wide system which currently provides power for our Butler-McCook House & Main Street History Center. Our plan is add the Amos Bull House – which is the future home of our administrative office - and the Butler-McCook Carriage House – which will house community program space - which are also on the property, to the system. However, given CL&P's demand charge rate structure, which as I previously said, has raised our electricity costs by 31.4%, the costs of running our administrative offices and program space will be unaffordable.

I think it is particularly important to make you aware of the situation Connecticut Landmarks faces in operating this system because we were granted \$120,000 of Community Investment Act funding to install this system with the intention that it would reduce our energy costs and enhance our long-term organizational sustainability. By addressing the problem with CL&P's rate structure, this important goal can still be met.

I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to testify before you and to introduce Aaron Danenberg who can speak to the technical aspects of this problem and offer proposed solutions to address the rate structure problem that currently makes geothermal systems cost prohibitive to install and operate in CL&P's territory in Connecticut.

The Antiquarian & Landmarks Society

Founded in 1936 as the Antiquarian & Landmarks Society, we are a state-wide network of twelve significant historic properties that span four centuries of New England history. Our museums are starting points—landmarks in every sense—for deeper exploration and greater appreciation of the Connecticut experience. We have something for everyone. From captivating house tours to lovely historic gardens, history celebrations and remarkable collections of art and antiques. Our real-life stories, as told through our collections, make history matter.

The historic, landmark properties span three centuries of Connecticut history and include: the Amasa Day House, Moodus; the Bellamy-Ferriday House & Garden, Bethlehem; the Butler-McCook House & Garden and Main Street History Center, Hartford; the Buttolph-Williams House, Wethersfield; the Hempsted Houses, New London; the Isham-Terry House, Hartford; the Nathan Hale Homestead, Coventry; the Phelps-Hatheway House & Garden, Suffield.

Connecticut Landmarks' mission is to inspire interest and encourage learning about the American past by preserving selected historic properties, collections and stories and presenting programs that meaningfully engage the public and our communities.